

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suzuki et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0146227). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, a structure for manufacturing an optical module that includes outer walls with different sizes.

Although the Examiner alleges that Suzuki discloses outer walls of different sizes, Suzuki merely teaches that one of the holding members 103 is held in place with fixing screw 107 and is made adjustable with adjusting screws 108. The purpose of the screws 107 and 108 are to adjust any misalignment between the holding members 103 and 103'. See, for example, paragraphs [0045] - [0058]. Additionally, although Figure 1(b) appears to illustrate that one holding member is shorter than the other, there is no indication that the drawing is to any type of scale and furthermore, there is no suggestion in the specification that such a configuration is desirable. Accordingly, Suzuki fails to teach or suggest a structure for manufacturing an optical module that includes outer walls with different sizes, as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependence upon claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

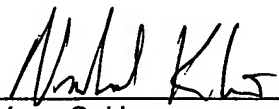
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 23, 2005